

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 2014  
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS**

**ITEM #1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 8:28 P.M.**

President Slifka: Okay, we're going to call the council meeting to order and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Slifka: Okay, I'm having a little bit of a magic trick going on here. We actually have three council people sitting right here. So, we'll have the rollcall, please, Ms. Labrot, and two of them will be coming through these phones.

**ITEM #3: ROLL CALL**

Present were Councilors Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Harry Captain, Judy Casperson, Leon Davidoff, Burke Doar, Denise Hall, Clare Kindall, and Scott Slifka. Council Alternates Paula Stabnick, Dennis Swanton and Bernard Kaveler were also present.

President Slifka: Here. Okay, and to add to the confusion, we'll have... We have... Ms. Stabnick is sitting over here. She'll be sitting on the zoning matter a few minutes, and Mr. Kavalier will also come up in a moment. We go to number 4. Ms. Cantor.

**ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Cantor: Number 4. I move that we approve the Minutes of Special Services District dated 9/23/14, Public Hearing 9/9/14 on One Chatfield, Town Council 9/9/14 and Town Council 9/23/14.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

**ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM**

President Slifka: We're up to public forum, and no one has signed up, and we had Public Hearings on many of the items. Is there anybody who did not sign up who wishes to speak to an item that was not otherwise a subject of a Public Hearing but is on the agenda this evening? Okay, none. So, we move to... thank you... report from the Town Manager, Mr. Van Winkle.

**ITEM #6: REPORTS OF TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. It is fall. The leaves are turning, and it is a beautiful New England fall out there, and that means that our leaf pickup, our bagged-leaf pickup will begin on October 20th. We do a ten-week program. So, it starts on Monday, October 20th, and leaves will be picked up in paper, recyclable bags for the next ten weeks on the day that your garbage is picked up. So, if you take your leaves, put it in those bags, our trucks will come along and pick 'em up on that day. I would just say that anyone try not... you should not put those bags in the street or you should not put free leaves in the street that your contractor might pick up. That is a violation of our local ordinances. The Town Clerk's Office is open for the month of October on Fridays because this is voter-registration month, if you will, and, so, they'll be open to assist persons looking to register to vote. I don't know if you've noticed, there's an election coming. And absentee ballots. Some of you may have received a memo from a resident concerned about a business on Oakwood Avenue. I got that this evening, also, from them, and I'll have a zoning officer get out there and take a look at that to make sure that they're complying with our regulations. Lyman Orchards is selling pies through The Town That Cares again. If you've never had a Lyman Orchard pie, that is a wonderful thing. You can come and order a pie from our Social-Services Department, and they will deliver, be delivered to you in time for Thanksgiving, and the funds go to Our Town That Cares Fund. I think that's all I have. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

President Slifka: Any questions for the manager? Ms. Kindall?

Councilor Kindall: During public comments tonight, we heard something about a concern with Leisure Services and local dance studios. Is this something that we would refer to our Leisure Services Committee? Is this something that the town can take a look at?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. Certainly. We've received some emails of concern over that. The Human Services Committee would have jurisdiction. We'd be happy to sit down with you, and I've sent you the contracts so you could see what we're doing. There are nine months left on that contract, so we would have to complete those nine months. It will give us some time to see whether this actually does have an impact or not. We can do many things. We can end that contract. We can change that contract to restrict it, to the kind of programs they run. It's certainly something that we would be happy to sit down, walk through with the Human Services Committee, make some recommendations, but before we renew that, we'd be happy to come back. I would just add that we do a lot of programs that potentially compete. We do music programs; we do taekwondo, all sorts of things at our Community Center. We hire outside contractors, be it an organization, like Hartt, or a single person that comes in. We ran dance for many years there, and it was run by a single person, a different program than what we're talking today. When that person left us, we thought about, well, how do we make this program stronger, and Hartt came up, a local nonprofit, the Hartt School of Music is quite a famous school, and we were very excited about the fact that we are able to have them come and participate in our Community Center. So, in truth, it wasn't something that we even thought about, that we were going to have some impact. We do, in fact, run a lot of programs that are government-run programs that do compete against the private sector. They tend to be lower priced, and they tend to be less, perhaps, intensive, and this one, obviously, is perhaps, a much more professional level, and that is where the concern comes. So, the Human Services Committee would be a great place for us to kind of walk through that and kind of think about what our options might be.

Again, we have nine months left on the contract, somewhere next spring we would sit down and talk about what our options, what options we'd recommend to the Council before we renew that contract.

President Slifka: Thank you. Ms. Hall.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. I was also thinking along those same lines, and, in speaking with you before, I said you never really know what types of things will rise to the level of community interaction or someone being opposed to something, and I would say I have utmost faith in Helen Rubino-Turco, I think she's doing a wonderful job with Human and Leisure Services, and, certainly, contracts like this are under your purview. The Human and Leisure Services Committee has only met twice this year, and I still think we need that committee to meet more because things like this. Even if they are under your purview, these are the types of things that the whole committee should at least talk about, and it's when everybody gets together that these type of unintended consequences of some action might have surfaced prior to a contract being signed. So I would just encourage our Human and Leisure Services Chair to see if we can't meet more regularly so that all of these type of issues have a chance to get vetted. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. Anyone else? Mr. Barnes?

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. On the same topic of the Elmwood-Hartt partnership. Based upon what we heard tonight from Mrs. Greene and conversations that we've had, it sounds like the Elmwood Community Center has offered programs that are entry level programs to see if whether it's instruments or music or martial arts, etcetera, to kind of see if the participants like the activity and then can go on into, step up into another program, and it seems like here that's where kind of the problem came in. It sounds like the program that's being offered is more than an entry level program, and it's taking students further into their pursuit of that art and then also providing a feeder system to Hartt and taking those kids out of the local community. So whereas Ms. Greene said in the past the program that was there kind of supported their efforts in their studios because those kids would then join their studios after completing the ECC Program. That's not happening under this current structure, and, so, it sounds like the scope of the program just needs to be bigger than it was under the current program that was being offered.

Mr. Van Winkle: I believe that is correct. We have a much more specific program. We list the whole program. We probably will not have classes in all of that. We listed them because we had the opportunity to offer all that if somebody signs up for a large... a group signs up for all of those, then we probably would offer 'em, but more likely is that most of those will go away. There'll be a few that will be core courses for us, but it is more of a specific training on a entry level kind of training that you would get with a class that offered three kinds of dance, like a sampler to see what you like, and then from that you might go onto someone else. And, as I said earlier, we could look at this contract. Whether we renew this contract, we can look at this contract. Whether we suggest that we're going to offer in a certain area but not other areas that might be them. We do have nine months left on this contract, so, in that time, we can begin to look and see how that might work for us.

President Slifka: Okay. Anyone else? Then we are moving onto number 7. Ms. Cantor.

## **ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilor Cantor: Number 7. I move that we place items 12, 16 through 18, 22 through 24 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: We had that last second switched. Sorry. Okay. Sorry about that. All those in favor of the Consent Calendar?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. To unfinished business number 8.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ITEM #8: APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF WEBSTER BANK N.A., LESSEE OF 774 NORTH MAIN STREET, WEST HARTFORD, ONE OF SEVERAL PROPERTIES OWNED BY SEA CROSSROADS WEST HARTFORD LLC AT 714-772 AND 774 NORTH MAIN STREET, WHICH TOGETHER COMPRISE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT #4 KNOWN AS CROSSROADS PLAZA AT BISHOP'S CORNER, FOR A REDESIGN OF THE PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED BUT STILL-TO-BE CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS TO WEBSTER BANK, INCLUDING THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE BANK'S INTERIOR, RENOVATION OF THE EXISTING BUILDING'S EXTERIOR, ELIMINATION OF THE PROPOSED ROOF CANOPY AND ENTRANCE RECONFIGURATION, SLIGHT WIDENING OF APPROVED DRIVE-THROUGH AREA TO ACCOMMODATE A RECONFIGURED ATM, AND CHANGES TO ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING.**

## **APPROVED, VOTE 9-0**

Councilor Cantor: Application on behalf of Webster Bank, NA, leasee of 774 North Main Street, West Hartford, one of the several properties owned by Sea Crossroads, West Hartford, LLC, at 714, 772, and 774 North Main Street, which together comprise Special Development District Number 4, known as Crossroads Plaza at Bishop's Corner for a redesign of the previously approved, but still-to-be-constructed improvements to Webster Bank, including the reconfiguration of the bank's interior, renovation of the existing buildings exterior, elimination of the proposed roof canopy and entrance configuration, slight widening of approved drive-through area to accommodate a reconfigured ATM, and changes to entrance landscaping. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is being seconded, and, just so record and public are clear, we now have Stabnick, Mr. Swanton and Mr. Kavalier sitting, and Ms. Hall has departed the table but, for purposes of this, my two friends on the phone, Ms. Caspersen and Mr. Doar have also... are not

participating in this item. Who would like to go first? Okay. Or we can just vote. Apparently we're not aware that we're not required to talk. We may not always realize that. Mr. Captain, go ahead.

Councilor Captain: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I will be supporting the Application, but I just wanted to make one point to future applicants: In the future, if you have an application on a bank or a jewelry store or something where there are safety concerns for customers as well as the employees of the building, I, personally, would appreciate something from Public Safety from our Police Chief to let us know what their thoughts are about the Application before us.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Captain. Ms. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: I also appreciate... I appreciate my councilman Davidoff and Councilman Captain on the comments and the quick research regarding that incident at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It wouldn't have impacted this design because, again, it was a different, but we are all in tune, especially with the recent robbery in West Hartford Center, also during the day. And, so we are concerned, and it's something we will, obviously, keep an eye on, and I also thought of it because of the screening, and that's a wonderful thing for neighbors, but it does provide some privacy for a potential... a potential crime, I guess. But I do want to... I do appreciate the accessibility, the handicap accessibility, the better, the improved walkway through, Starkel Road through the bus stop all the way to the bank, which is a... Those people are pedestrians at that point, and it does help to... it really does help that flow in that area. We really, it's a funny thing because that area is very, very choppy, and this is one of the first connections that we make into that center, and hopefully it will continue to improve. That center is going through a little bit of a renaissance, and we really appreciate the reinvestment. This is a big improvement. I think once that very unique C building is renovated, I think we will see the... It's really like an art-deco, unique shape, and I really appreciate the fact that Webster Bank is keeping it and improving it, and I think that the reinvestment is welcome and needed in that area. Thank you. I will be supporting it.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. Alright. If there's nothing further, I will take a rollcall, though, Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Davidoff, Kindall, Slifka and Alternates Stabnick, Kavalier and Swanton voted YES.

Ms. Labrot: It's unanimous.

President Slifka: Okay. Congratulations to the Applicant. Okay. Alright, we're back. Burke and Judy are back online, and so we'll go to number 9. Ms. Cantor?

**ITEM #9: ORDINANCE EXPANDING THE ADDITIONAL TAX EXEMPTION  
AVAILABLE FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS.**

**ADOPTED, VOTE 7-0, 2 ABSTAIN**

Ms. Cantor: Number 9. Ordinance Expanding the Additional Tax Exemption Availability for Totally Disabled Veterans. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Sorry. Motion is made and seconded. I am looking to Corporation Counsel just because I know our two colleagues on the phone did not participate in the hearing for the ordinances, so should they not vote on the item?

Mr. O'Brien: Yeah, they would not vote on any of the ordinance items they did not hear.

President Slifka: Alright. Okay. Thank you. I'll just maybe go first on this. This is a... This has more words than I think in the ordinance name than I think a dollar benefit there is to the one resident who will qualify. I think we're... This is a program, what they call an opt-in program, that is passed by the State, so the State regulates what kind of exemptions we can give to different classes of people, and, as we have seen many times over the years, they have expanded in a lot of cases the benefits afforded to veterans. In this case, as we learned in the Public Hearing tonight, what it... the impact to the town is that it will impact one resident in a very modest way, so I think we're all happy to support it and to appreciate what the State has done, but I perhaps will be talking with our State Representatives to suggest that maybe the benefit could be a little bit more generous, because it's probably a lot of work for the State to pass a law like that, it takes a lot of time, a lot of committee review, things like that, and I know if we're having one impact, one person impacted, I happen to read this by coincidence today, a... the town paper in Glastonbury had an article on this, and they had five residents who were impacted, so, clearly, this is extraordinarily modest for a group of people that is probably the most deserving we could find around to give a benefit like this. So I don't know what size and scope that would be. On a note for the record, it was in the Hearing, but for the public purposes that all the Council has the ability to do on this is to choose to enact it or not. We do not have the ability to expand the pool of veterans who could qualify nor the amount of money involved. But, with that, I'm happy to support it and hope we will be in touch with the one veteran to make sure he or she applies. Ms. Hall, go ahead.

Councilor Hall: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I am also very happy to support this and would look forward to speaking with our State Representatives about expanding this. I just want to reiterate that I think West Hartford does a wonderful job of honoring our veterans as we prepare for Veterans' Day, in a couple of weeks, and it's one of the things that really makes me proud to be a resident here. So, thank you for bringing this to our attention, and hopefully we can make it better.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Hall. Anyone else? Okay. It is an ordinance, so it does require a rollcall vote. Ms. Labrot?

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Davidoff, Hall, Kindall and Slifka voted YES.  
Councilors Doar and Casperson abstained.

Ms Labrot: It's unanimous.

President Slifka: Thank you. We're up to number 10, Ms. Kindall. Ms... Cantor. Boy.

**ITEM #10: ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS WITHIN THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**

**ADOPTED, VOTE 7-0, 2 ABSTAIN**

Councilor Cantor: Ordinance regulating public swimming pools within the Town of West Hartford. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded, and I'm gonna turn to Mr. Van Winkle perhaps of the summary?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. The Town of West Hartford Health District inspects public pools. Those include the pools that the Town of West Hartford owns as well as what a school might own or a condominium association. We do not inspect and do not regulate the pool in your backyard. There are sixteen of those pools in the Town of West Hartford. We implement the State's regulations when inspecting those. What this ordinance does is what the State allowed us to do, which was to adopt local ordinances for the regulation of those pools and put a fee on that so that the cost of doing that inspection is borne by the owner of the pool and similar to what we do with restaurants. We inspect restaurants and charge that restaurant for that inspection. So the ordinance adopts local regulations and then puts a fee on that regulation, that inspection so that we can cover the cost of those inspections, which we already do.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Anything from Council? Okay. With that, rollcall vote, please, Ms. Labrot?

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Davidoff, Hall, Kindall and Slifka voted YES.  
Councilors Doar and Casperson abstained.

President Slifka: Thank you. And, number 11. Ms. Cantor?

**ITEM #11: ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE RENEWAL OF LIQUOR PERMITS**

**ADOPTED, VOTE 7-0, 2 ABSTAIN**

Councilor Cantor: Ordinance concerning the renewal of Liquor Permits. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Motion is made and seconded. And Mr. Van Winkle, I ask again if you could provide a summary, please?

Mr. Van Winkle: Certainly. A restaurant in the Town of West Hartford which serves liquor is required to have a Liquor Permit. That Liquor Permit runs for a period of time and then is required to be renewed at the State Liquor Commission. Those are all approved, again, by the State of Connecticut. In the past, if we had a restaurant where we were having some problems with one of the options that we could or the neighborhood could do would be to appear at that Hearing and express your concern about the renewal. That was not something that was easy to do because we had no real knowledge of when those permits got reissued, renewed, and, though the State passed some legislation which said that if the town would pass a local ordinance, as we're looking at tonight, then the Liquor Control Commission will notify of when Liquor Permits are being renewed. Again, just, if we've had some instances where neighbors were concerned about the operation of a restaurant, that would give us the opportunity to let them know that you can express those concerns at the renewal, and the Liquor Control Commission will take into effect what you might have of concern. Whether they pull the permit or not, that would be a big decision. Obviously, you take someone's Liquor Permit, you eventually would put them out of business, but it, at least, allows us to be able to voice those things when they're making those decisions and maybe get the Liquor Control Commission to be a little more aggressive in their process with that restaurant.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Any comments from Council? Questions? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Since we're requiring the Applicants to give written notice to the Chief of Police about their renewal of their Liquor Permit and knowing that this will appear in the newspaper as a result of the action the Council takes, I think it may be in our best interest to also notify those who own, hold Liquor Permits in the Town of West Hartford to get some type of actual notice, possibly mailed to them, that this is a change in procedure here in town, and this way they can be in compliance instead of down the road we hear, oh, I didn't know that we had to do it or I didn't see that in the newspaper. I think if we're proactive on this, then I think right out of the box that might help us get compliance.

Mr. Van Winkle: I would also just say that the Liquor Control Commission, the State agency, is the one that regulates this. They are the ones that would be doing those Hearings. We'll make sure that they know we passed this ordinance. I would hope that they would make sure when they sent out that Notice of Renewal, they would let that person know also that they need to notify the town. So, there are several places where we could do that outreach, and I appreciate your comment. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Ms. Ms. Kindall?

Councilor Kindall: How many holders of Liquor Permits do we have in West Hartford.

Mr. Van Winkle: We have a lot of restaurants, and I don't know off hand, but, obviously, we do have a significant number of restaurants in the Town of West Hartford that have a Liquor Permit. I don't even know if we have a list of them, to tell you the truth. If we don't have... Wait a minute. My Town Clerk is nodding away because she has them.



Ms. Labrot: We do because we also issue Liquor Permits through my office, and so there's about 214.

President Slifka: Anyone else? Okay. Then, with that, we need another rollcall, Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Davidoff, Hall, Kindall, and Slifka voted YES  
Councilors Doar and Casperson abstained

Ms. Labrot: Three for three.

President Slifka: Okay. To new business, number 13. Ms. Cantor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ITEM #13: RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$117,525 IN GRANT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE UNDER THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT.**

#### **ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded Federal Funds by the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office under the Federal Highway Safety Program (Federal Program Area 2015-154AL, State Project 0195-0722-DR) in the amount of \$117,525 to provide comprehensive Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement program activities from October 2, 2014 through September 12, 2015, and

**WHEREAS**, the objectives of this program are to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities from impaired driving through increased high-visibility enforcement activities and to communicate to the public, through media venues, the increased level of DUI enforcement so that drivers will realize the risks and consequences of operating a vehicle while under the influence and, therefore, deter that behavior, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford desires to utilize such funds for additional DUI patrol activities, in accordance with both Federal and State regulations, policies, and procedures that govern the use of highway safety funds,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT** grant funds under the Federal Highway Safety Program are appropriated for the purpose of expanded DUI enforcement activities in accordance with the terms of the grant, and the fiscal year 2014-2015 General Fund budget is amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

|                      |                       |           |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 01-220410-20101-9070 | Federal Grant Revenue | \$117,525 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|

Increase Appropriations

01-220410-20101-1010

Overtime

\$117,525

Councilor Cantor: Number 13. Resolution to appropriate \$117,525 in grand funds awarded by the Connecticut Department of Transportation's High Safety Officer under the Federal; Highway Safety Program for the purpose of comprehensive DUI enforcement. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: The Motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, we're simply appropriating the grant funds that came with this, but I think in the spirit of public notice and making residents aware that there be increased enforcement, we wanted to make sure that we did discuss this briefly. Is there any additional information that you can provide regarding how it will be implemented, when it might be implemented? I know sometimes that comes later in the process, but if you have it now, it sure would be helpful.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. This begins to be implemented now. The program actually runs from October 2nd, so we will begin to incur over time for the purpose of doing DUI, so if you're out drinking and having fun, make sure you have a designated driver with you, and you won't have a problem, but as a general rule, on weekend nights, we put additional police officers on to look for DUI instances, so it may be a stop that we do, which would be we stop all cars. We've done some of that with other kinds of enforcement or it may just that we'll add additional police on the street looking for those persons that may be violating this rule. So, the only guidelines I have for the public is don't drink and drive.

President Slifka: Good advice. Ms. Hall

Councilor Hall: Mr. Van Winkle, is there anything that will stop police officers who are working with a DUI mission from ticketing or stopping people for any offense? So, if they're on a DUI mission, and someone is speeding through town or running a light, they are free to apprehend that person as well, right?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, without question. If there's something else going on, the police officer will stop a speeding car. We'll go to a complaint. If we have an officer that's free to go to a medical issue at a house, we'll, certainly, send that free officer, but from every officer who is working at any time is there to enforce the law regardless of what detail they may be on. Some might be on traffic; some might be on patrol, but, whatever happens, they're all there to enforce the law.

Councilor Hall: Okay. Great. Because I know this Council has spoken about public safety on our streets a lot lately, and I just... I am happy we're doing this. If we have more presence, I think traffic enforcement is huge, and I want the public to know if they're breaking the law in our streets, we've got a lot of police out there that are going to stop it. So, thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Miss. Hall. Anyone else? Okay. Let's see. Oh, we need to vote. All those in favor or the resolution?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to number 14. Ms. Cantor?

**ITEM #14: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000 FROM THE MIRACLE LEAGUE OF CONNECTICUT TO CONSTRUCT A CONCESSION STAND AND RESTROOMS AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD.**

**ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of The Miracle League of Connecticut is “to provide boys and girls ages 5-18 with developmental and/or physical challenges the opportunity to participate in baseball and other team sports in a safe, nurturing and enjoyable environment, and for their families to join together with other families to experience the joy of play and the building of new friendships”, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford, in conjunction with the Miracle League of Connecticut, constructed a fully accessible baseball field at the UConn Athletic Complex in West Hartford, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a desire to construct restrooms and a concession stand at the Miracle League Field for the convenience of the participants and their families, and

**WHEREAS**, the Miracle League of Connecticut has raised \$160,000 and wishes to donate these funds to the Town for this purpose,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford wishes to recognize and thank the Miracle League of Connecticut for their generous donation and hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget of the Capital Projects Fund as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

|                      |               |           |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 41-831542-80004-9340 | Contributions | \$160,000 |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|

Increase Appropriations

|                      |           |           |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 41-831542-80004-3037 | Site Work | \$160,000 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|

Councilor Cantor: Number 14. Resolution accepting and appropriating a donation in the amount of \$160,000 from the Miracle League of Connecticut to construct a concession stand and restrooms at the Miracle League Field. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. I thought we'd just highlight... Fourteen and fifteen are very similar, so maybe we can cover them both essentially in this conversation, but this is over \$300,000 in donations. This is a pretty amazing feat by the Miracle League Team, and Mr. Van Winkle, did you have additional detail you'd like to add?

Mr. Van Winkle: We all remember the Miracle League has already raised substantial dollars to build the field that is on the UConn site. So that was built by funds raised by the Miracle League. They got donations from all over to build that field. They had always wanted to add some restrooms and a snack-bar kind of facility to that site, and along with CBDG dollars that we have for the accessible bathrooms, and this 160 will be able to build those at the Miracle League Field, so this is just one of those many examples we have in West Hartford where people just give so much to this community, care a lot about it. So, the Miracle League is a wonderful organization, and it's the first one built in New England or the Northeast. I mean, it just was remarkable that they were able to do that and build that in West Hartford. We mentioned them both, but the other organization that has worked with us for so many years, raising money for the construction of facilities in West Hartford, the Field of Dreams Group that build soccer fields on Quaker and Flatbush is also donating funds, \$164,500, for similar improvements at the Field of Dreams Field at Flatbush and Quaker. Again, an organization started by an individual that wanted to make a difference in West Hartford, raised substantial dollars to build those fields that now are providing additional dollars to make additional improvements down there. So we thank them both for their efforts.

President Slifka: Alright. Anyone else. Ms. Kindall?

Councilor Kindall: For the Miracle Field, Miracle League Field on the UConn property, although the UConn property's future is uncertain, can you just share how we've been reassured about what the status of that field?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, we know UConn is moving to the City of Hartford in 2017. That site will... Something will happen to that site. It's not clear yet what the State first will do with that site and what decisions they will make and then what the eventual outcome will be. We're very much on top of that, and we're very much working with them. But one of the things that they did say to us, that they would carve out that land, which is baseball field, Miracle League, and some parking, to make sure that these investments that we have made on that site will not be for naught. So, whatever happen at the UConn site, we will continue to have those recreational facilities there.

Councilor Kindall: So we're not putting \$160,000 of donated money into a property we're not gonna own, right. I mean... this is gonna be... At least that piece will be carved out for the Miracle League regardless of whatever happens to remainder, correct?

Mr. Van Winkle: That is correct.

President Slifka: Okay, anything further on this. Okay, all those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 15. Ms. Cantor?

**ITEM #15: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$164,500 FROM FIELD OF DREAMS TO RENOVATE AND EXPAND THE CONCESSION STAND AND RESTROOMS AT GOODRICH FIELD ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, Field of Dreams is a non-profit organization established to acquire and renovate land for use as soccer fields and to provide maintenance for those fields, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford, in conjunction with Field of Dreams, constructed soccer fields at Goodrich Park, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a desire to renovate an existing restroom and expand it to include a new concession stand at Goodrich Park for the convenience of soccer players and their families, and

**WHEREAS**, Field of Dreams has contributed \$164,500 to the Town of West Hartford for this purpose,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford wishes to recognize and thank Field of Dreams for their generous donation and hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget of the Capital Projects Fund as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

|                      |               |           |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 41-831548-80004-9340 | Contributions | \$164,500 |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|

Increase Appropriations

|                      |                         |           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 41-831548-80004-3037 | Site Work-Goodrich Park | \$164,500 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|

Councilor Cantor: Resolution accepting and appropriating a donation in the amount of \$164,500 from Field of Dreams to renovate and expand the concession stand and restrooms at Goodrich Field. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Motion is made and seconded. We did cover this one already, so unless there's something further, all those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries.

**ITEM #18: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Slifka: We are up to announcements, and, that time of year, there are quite a few. Perhaps most immediate and most important, given who is broadcasting us. This evening, this

Friday, October 17, from 7 to 11 p.m. it's the... it's called Take 5, An Evening with Friends All-Access Party. This is the signature fundraising event for the year for WHCTV. It's a fun evening of cocktails, conversation, and support of our own hometown and nonprofit TV station. The evening will feature music and a fabulous silent auction with one-of-a-kind items. If you've followed WHCT on TV, on Twitter they've been rolling those out at least once a day. And, just for those who may not be aware of the mission, founded in 1979, WHCTV is a nonprofit community media center, which has evolved from a simple cable channel to a nationally recognized community media center. Funds raised support Be The Media, Our Grassroots Journalism Project that trains youth-media teams and community correspondence to tell stories in their own voices and helps us keep the station going strong so we can serve the community. I hope you join us for the fabulous evening. Tickets are \$60 at the door, and you can buy them online at WHCTV.org, and I think it's \$50 if you do it at that point. As we heard at the beginning of the night but maybe before the cameras were on, the Park Road Parade is on this Saturday, October 18th, kicks off at 10:30 a.m. This is the 17th annual event, as most of us know, but if you haven't been there, you should know that it's a zany, unique, and, most of all, it is a celebration of all that is good in West Hartford and beyond. It steps off at South Highland Street and ends at South Quaker Lane. And, then, immediately after that, a very special event will take place at noon when the Richard Patrissi Memorial Clock will be dedicated. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Many of you, who watch us regularly, will remember Mr. Patrissi as somebody who sat at this table with us, is a very trusted and frequent zoning alternate, but for those who don't know him, he was known by many as a business advocate, passionate community leader, devoted volunteer, beloved family man and a true friend. His tireless efforts to better the Park Road neighborhood are being recognized with a clock that will stand at the crosswalk near the playhouse on Park and AC Petersen's Restaurant. We want to thank the people who helped contribute over \$25,000 to making his dream come true by having a central meeting place on Park Road. We still miss his presence there every day, and as we... and we had Tony Landino here tonight talking about the parade and the connection with Richard and the clock is simply that he had for many years stated he wished there had been clock on Park Road so that when he was making his rounds on the street he could simply tell people just meet me at the clock, and, unfortunately, Richard will not be here for that, but the clock will live on in his memory, and it's the town's way of saying thank you to Richard. The same evening October 18 from 6 to 9 p.m., the second-annual WeHa Whiskey Festival is here at the Town Hall. It will once again benefit two local charities – Camp Courant and The Town That Cares fund. Advance tickets are on sale at \$89.99 a person. If purchased at the door, it's \$109. 104 FM will broadcast live from the festival, and there will be food catered by Highland Park Market, and more than 150 bourbon, scotch, and whiskey brands available for tasting. If you want ticket information, go to wehawhiskey.com. The West Hartford United Methodist Church will have its Annual Harvest Fair October 18th, so, again, this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Features pumpkins, craft items, a bakery, a deli, a snack shack, and much, much more. Admission is free. Our own Westmoor Park, same time, on October 18th from 11 to 3 will be having its Annual Country Pumpkin Festival. It's an annual family celebration of fall, including games, crafts, music, marshmallow roast, and hayrides. Pumpkins and apples will be sold. Visit westmoorpark.org for more information. West Hartford Hauntings. The Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society Spooky Theatrical Cemetery Tour will celebrate its 10th year. It is going on this week from October 17th to 19th and then again on the 24th and 25th. These are lantern-lit tours. The tours will leave between 6 and 8:45 p.m., Sundays from 5 to 7:45, and the guest will

be led through stones of the Old Town Cemetery by a dearly departed guide, their words, not mine, who will tell their own tale on the journey. Tickets are available [noahwebsterhouse.org](http://noahwebsterhouse.org). The next... Let's see, that is next Saturday, October 25th at 10:30 a.m. Costumed children of all ages are invited to our Annual Halloween Stroll. Festivities begin with a pumpkin carnival at the Town Hall parking lot. That starts at 9:30 a.m. There will be free snacks and trick-or-treat bag giveaways and many, many other activities. The stroll itself steps off at 10:30 through Blue Back Square and then through West Hartford Center, and you get to visit the participating merchants, if you haven't been through that before. If you'd like more information, please go to [momsandmoreclub.com](http://momsandmoreclub.com). And, Harry had an announcement about an event...

Councilor Captain: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This Sunday, October 19th at 3:00 p.m. at the Robert's Theatre. The West Hartford Symphony Orchestra will be performing Something Old and Something New, their first event of the season. Tickets are \$15, and if you'd like bring a child under 12, they are free. For more information, you can go to [whso.org](http://whso.org).

President Slifka: Ms. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: You may see some turkey legs around. That is actually sponsored by Liberty Bank. It is a way for them to support. Actually, they do a match with our Local Rotary of West Hartford to support... The proceeds from that go directly to the Food Pantry of West Hartford, and so if you happen to see an establishment with turkey legs, purchase them or you can walk into Liberty Bank and make a donation or go to the Rotary website or contact me, and we can make sure that your donation is matched.

President Slifka: Okay. Ms. Hall?

Councilor Hall: So, this is just a reminder that we are looking for volunteers to help us place flags on the graves of all the veterans at Fairview Cemetery to help honor them for serving our Country. This will be Saturday, November 8th at Fairview on Pleasant Street in West Hartford, Connecticut. We're meeting at 8:30. And, also just a reminder, if you have a friend or a relative whose grave is not marked as a veteran and they're not in one of the veteran sections and you want to make sure that they don't get overlooked, please feel free to call the cemetery at 521-5270, or if you need more information, you can call either my husband, Tom, or me at 521-7654. Thanks.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Hall. Anyone else? Okay, I do have one from Ms. Casperson (there's apparently some trouble with the phone), the St. Agnes Home Dinner is this Saturday, the 18th, to benefit that nonprofit organization. And, also, this is my fault, she was trying to get through during the earlier discussion, which involved the Community Planning Committee, and she indicates she will be very happy to schedule a meeting as soon as possible, most likely on a Tuesday morning, but she would prefer to discuss that with community members and the administration to make sure we can get it on the calendar, but she is more than happy to do that, and my fault for not getting it stated at the time we were talking about the item. Are there anything else? We've exhausted the calendar? Okay. Then, we are up to the report from the Corporation Counsel. Mr. O'Brien?

## **ITEM #19: REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Mr. O'Brien: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Last week we sent out the requested report on pending litigation, which provided summaries of the cases that are presently pending either in the State of Federal Courts or in the CHRO where money damages are being claimed from the town, and, in addition to these, we get Notices of Claim quite frequently. State law requires generally that if you do bring a claim against a municipality, you have to give notice within six months of the incident that you're complaining about, and many of those we manage to settle within the limits that are granted to my office and to the Finance Department jointly, 25,000 or less, so we do manage to prevent a lot of these from becoming lawsuits but, obviously, some do. I'm certainly willing to go into executive session if you wish to tonight, to have a general discussion, or at some other time, when we have all our members here. And there's no action that needs to be taken on any of these at the present time. Also, if any of you wish to meet with me or any... Pat Alair or Kimberly Boneham, I'd be happy to do so at your convenience in my office, and we can have an in-depth discussion of any or all of these cases. So, I'll be happy to do that. And, other than that, I'll be happy to answer any questions.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Are there any questions for Mr. O'Brien?

Councilor Hall: I think we did have a couple of questions, but given the presence over the phone and the complexity of doing that, maybe we could put that off until the next meeting?

Mr. O'Brien: Sure. I'll be... Anytime, I'm ready.

Councilor Hall: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Then, we are up to appointments. Ms. Cantor, we have two I believe.

## **ITEM #20: APPOINTMENTS**

Councilor Cantor: Yes. I would like to make a motion to appoint Janice Barshay to the Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council, term ending June 30, 2016, and appoint Stephen Barshay to the Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council on June 30, 2016.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor? Oh, I'm sorry... ... did you... go ahead. I'm sorry.

Councilor Barnes: Yeah. Excuse me. Is it customary that we get a resume or some information about the people that we're appointing? And I apologize if I haven't.. Ms. Labrot, is that the email for tonight? And that's the blurb for the Barshay's. Okay. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Barnes. Anybody else? Okay. All those in favor?



Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? The motion carries.

No Executive Session, so we're up to Consent Calendar, number 25.

**ITEM #25: CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ADOPTED**

**ITEM #12: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FFY2014 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford and the Homeland Security Grant Program shall enter into a memorandum of agreement regarding use of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 State Homeland Security Grant funding and custodial ownership of region assets in DEMHS Region 3;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Town of West Hartford may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Ronald Van Winkle, Town Manager of West Hartford, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of West Hartford and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

**ITEM #16: RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS OF \$8,234 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NU-STEP RECUMBENT CROSS TRAINERS FOR THE ELMWOOD AND WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CENTERS' STEP UP TO HEALTH FITNESS CENTERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Step Up to Health Fitness Centers were made possible through a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and

**WHEREAS**, the Step Up to Health Fitness Centers are vital in creating and maintaining the health, fitness and wellness of over 200 senior citizens, and

**WHEREAS**, the Step Up to Health Fitness Centers provide volunteer opportunities to over 25 volunteers who contribute a total of 22,500 hours annually, and

**WHEREAS**, the popularity of the Step Up to Health Fitness Centers has increased, as well as the fitness levels of the participants, resulting in the need for additional equipment to meet the growing demand of the members, and

**WHEREAS**, the Elmwood and West Hartford Senior Centers would like to purchase a Nu-Step Recumbent Cross Trainer for each facility using donated funds,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD** hereby authorizes the purchase of exercise equipment and amends the fiscal year 2014-2015 General Fund budget as follows:

**Estimated Revenues**

|                      |                                       |         |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 01-402400-40401-9340 | Donations-West Hartford Senior Center | \$4,117 |
| 01-402300-40301-9340 | Donations-Elmwood Senior Center       | \$4,117 |

**Increase Appropriations**

|                      |                               |         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 01-402400-40401-2103 | Minor Equipment-Cross Trainer | \$4,117 |
| 01-402300-40301-2103 | Minor Equipment-Cross Trainer | \$4,117 |

**ITEM #17: RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE A \$15,000 BRIGHT IDEA GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TO FUND A PILOT STREET LIGHTING PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Clean Energy Communities program, offered jointly by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, is to encourage communities to become more energy efficient and increase their support for clean renewable energy, and

**WHEREAS**, this program provides qualified cities and towns with performance based incentives that can be used toward energy-saving projects, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford has earned the designation of a Connecticut Clean Energy Community by pledging to reduce its municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018, purchase 20% of its municipal building electricity from clean, renewable energy sources by 2018, and promote energy efficiency and clean, renewable technologies in the community, and

**WHEREAS**, based upon its progress toward these goals, the Town has been awarded a \$15,000 Bright Ideas grant to be used on a pilot street-lighting project which involves replacing existing high pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures with light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures which are more energy efficient,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD** that the \$15,000 Bright Idea Grant is hereby appropriated for the purpose of a pilot LED street-lighting project and the fiscal year 2014-2015 Capital Projects Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase Estimated Revenue**

|                      |                              |          |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 41-871442-80003-9361 | Miscellaneous Reimbursements | \$15,000 |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------|

Increase Appropriation  
41-871442-80003-3057

Streetlight Improvements

\$15,000

**ITEM #22: FROM TOWN PLANNING AND ZONING (10/6/14) RE: WEBSTER BANK-RECOMMENDING APPROVAL**

**ITEM #23: FROM DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE (9/17/14) RE: WEBSTER BANK-RECOMMENDING APPROVAL**

**ITEM #24: MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 9/15/14**

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 26, under Communications.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**ITEM #26: FROM TODD DUMAIS, TOWN PLANNER (9/16/14), NOTICE OF TOWN PLANNER'S INTENTION TO APPROVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177-44C(9) A REQUEST ON BEHALF OF 24 NORTH MAIN STREET, LLC SEEKING APPROVAL FOR MINOR ARCHITECTURAL REVISIONS TO THE APPROVED SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLAN #133 LOCATED AT 24 NORTH MAIN STREET. THE REQUEST IS FOR THE APPROVAL OF MINOR ARCHITECTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO FAÇADE AND RECONFIGURATION OF PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE GARAGE.**

Councilor Cantor: From Todd Dumais, Town Planner, 9/16/2014, Notice of Town Planner's intention to approve pursuant to Section 177-44C(9), a request on behalf of 24 North Main Street, LLC, seeking approval for minor architectural revisions to the approved Special Development District Plan 133, located at 24 North Main Street. The request is for the approval of minor architectural modifications to façade and reconfiguration of parking spaces within the garage. I move that we receive.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? I see none. All those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 27.

**ITEM #27: FROM TODD DUMAIS, TOWN PLANNER (10/3/14), NOTICE OF TOWN PLANNER'S INTENTION TO APPROVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177-44C(9)(F) A REQUEST ON BEHALF OF LERNER PROPERTIES, LLC SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A REVISION TO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLAN #69 LOCATED AT THE SHOPS AT BOULEVARD, 463 PROSPECT AVENUE. THE REQUEST IS FOR THE APPROVAL OF A MINOR MODIFICATION TO, AND SIGNAGE INCREASE ON, THE EXISTING FREESTANDING PYLON SIGN.**

Councilor Cantor: From Todd Dumais, Town Planner, Notice of Town Planner's intention to approve pursuant to Section 17744C9F, a request on behalf of Lerner Properties, LLC, seeking approval for a revision to Special Development District Plan 69 located at The Shops at Boulevard, 463 Prospect Avenue. The request is for approval of a minor modification to and signage increase on the existing freestanding pylon sign. I move that we receive.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? I see none. All those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed. Motion carries. There are no petitions.

**ITEM #29: ADJOURNMENT**

President Slifka: So, I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Cantor: So Moved.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

Multiple Speakers: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned. Good night.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*Essie S. Labrot*

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Essie S. Labrot  
Town/Council Clerk

**APPROVED AT OCTOBER 28, 2014, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**